

# CONGRESS.

## The Legislative Appropriations in the Senate.

### CIVIL SERVICE REFORM CRITICISED.

### A Railroad Tactic of the Erie Stamp.

### THE GOAT ISLAND GRAB.

### The Deficiency Bill in the House Reported from the Committee of the Whole.

### Fernando's Driftwood for Democratic Planks.

### THE EIGHT-HOUR LABOR QUESTION.

### SENATE.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1879.

SMITH'S LITTLE GAME.

In the Senate to-day Mr. Morrill, (rep.) of Vt., said a document had come into his hands which he felt bound to bring to the attention of the Senate. He went up and had read a circular, signed John A. Smith, and addressed to leading railroad men throughout the country, stating that a movement was on foot to secure the passage of an act to increase the rates paid to railroads for carriage of the mails.

Mr. Morrill, said he was confident that the statements of the circular, so far as they related to the increase of rates, were true. In every particular, because he had seen the circular, and he knew too much integrity to enter into any such combination. It was true that the railroads were not paid enough for carrying the mails, and that the Government had the right to increase the rates, but he thought that the gentlemen charged with having entered into this arrangement would be able to explain the matter.

Mr. Cameron, (rep.) of Pa., said he was confident that the statements of the circular, so far as they related to the increase of rates, were true. In every particular, because he had seen the circular, and he knew too much integrity to enter into any such combination. It was true that the railroads were not paid enough for carrying the mails, and that the Government had the right to increase the rates, but he thought that the gentlemen charged with having entered into this arrangement would be able to explain the matter.

Mr. Wilson, (rep.) of Mass., said that one of the greatest evils in this country was the increasing number of persons who were in Congress or in the departments afterwards setting up in Washington as experts and using the knowledge acquired in public life to create a business for themselves. He thought that this was one of the most necessary and important reforms.

Mr. Cameron moved to lay the circular on the table.

Mr. Morrill concurred in the motion, having, he said, accounted for the circular by saying that it was a matter before the Senate and the public.

THE CUSTOMS DUTY PROPOSITION.

Mr. Bayard, (rep.) of N. Y., said that at an early day he would move to take up the resolution asking the President to transmit the instructions given to the district attorneys in New York in relation to the prosecution of persons who have given gratuities to Custom House officials. The correspondence, he said, was already in the hands of the President, and that the district attorney wished the resolution taken up so as to submit some explanatory remarks, and also to give Mr. Conkling and Mr. Tilden a chance to be heard.

Mr. Conkling, (rep.) of N. Y., said he had no objection to discussing the resolution. He had no objection whatever to the resolution, and he would support it. He thought that the instructions given to the district attorneys were given in obedience to the imperative mandate of the President, and that their issue was determined by the Senate.

Mr. Conkling called up the bill providing for the erection of public buildings at New York, New Orleans, and San Francisco. He said that the bill was introduced by Mr. Bayard, and that it was a bill for the benefit of the people.

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# THE CUSTOM HOUSE INQUIRY.

## Examination of General Babcock—He Knows Nothing About the General Order Business.

### Very Little About Samana Bay Was Reciprocal to Lindsay and Murphy.

### The New York Custom House Investigating Committee Resumed its Session this Afternoon.

### A Communication was Received from A. G. Page, of Bath, Me., Complaining of Wrongs Done by the Custom House Officials in the Matter of Importations, Seizures and Compromises, and Asking for an Investigation.

### A Conversation Took Place as to Whether the Committee Could Examine into Matters Other Than Those Connected with the New York Custom House.

### Mr. Bayard, who Presented the Paper, Withdrew the Same, Saying He Would Ask the Senate to Authorize the Committee to Cooperate.

### GENERAL BABCOCK TESTIFIES.

General Babcock was then sworn. He testified he was Major in the Corps of Army Engineers. He was on duty with the President as a secretary, and since July last has been in charge of public buildings and grounds, and is Engineer of the Potomac Aqueduct.

The CHAIRMAN, addressing General Babcock, said he was aware the newspapers had asserted that Colonel Leet was engaged in the general order business in such a way as implicated President Grant in the matter. General Babcock replied: "I have no interest whatever in the general order business with Leet. I am not a member of his staff, and I have never received a single cent in any way or shape from him, nor have I made any arrangement to receive any benefit or interest from any Custom House officers." He further testified that Leet became a member of his staff in 1869, and that he was not a member of his staff until 1871. He said that he was not a member of his staff until 1871, and that he was not a member of his staff until 1871.

Mr. Bayard, (rep.) of N. Y., presented a memorial of the Chamber of Commerce, of the city of New York, asking for the right to purchase, at once, the site now occupied by the New York Post Office.

Also a petition of the New York Tobacco Board of Trade for permanent bond tobacco warehouse.

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# CHAPTER OF MEXICAN HISTORY.

## Full Account of the Japanese Embassy to Pope Gregory XIII. in the Sixteenth Century.

### The Ceremony of Reception—Great but Transient Success of the Jesuit Mission—Letter of Homage from the Emperor of Japan and the Pope's Reply.

### The Presence in Washington of the Japanese Embassy may properly be considered among the important events of the century. It is highly gratifying that its members should first present their credentials to the government of the United States before offering themselves to the other friendly Powers to whom they are accredited. The honor and distinction with which these gentlemen will be treated during their sojourn in this country will be all that is properly due and suitably rendered. It is now nearly three hundred years ago that an embassy was sent from Japan to Pope Gregory XIII. to offer homage to him as the head of the Christian Church.

### Since that time the Japanese have adopted the principle of isolation, and have refused to receive Ministers abroad. In the history of the empire the present Embassy is the second that has ever left the country. Some particulars of the visit of the four young princes, with their attendants, to Portugal, Spain and Rome in 1585 can hardly fail to possess a degree of interest at the present moment, when the highest Japanese officials are in our midst as diplomatic representatives of their country.

### THE MISSIONARY LABOR.

The HERALD of the 1st instant gave an elaborate and carefully prepared account of the past and present of Japan and some particulars of the personnel of the Embassy. St. Francis Xavier, the apostle of the Indies, renewed in Japan the wonders of the apostolic age and exhibited in his own person a living proof of Christianity. A new world appeared to be converted by his preaching, and from the time he landed in the empire (1549) until his death he labored assiduously and successfully among the natives. In 1567 all missionaries were banished, and a terrible persecution of Christians followed.

Two months of the people had openly professed Christianity. The followers of the new doctrine took no pains to pacify the government, but defied it and began to overthrow the idols. This led to further and more crushing persecutions. The native Christians endured all with heroic courage and refused all inducements to make a recantation. In 1587 an attempt was made to overthrow the government, and at this juncture an edict was issued (given below) banishing Europeans from the empire and prohibiting Japanese vessels from leaving the country.

### EMBASSY TO ROME.

Before these events took place the number of converts was almost inconceivable. The Prince of Amida, Bingo and Omura openly espoused the religion of Christianity and were baptized. Father Alexander Valignani, Visitor General of the Jesuit Missions established in the East Indies, came in that capacity to inspect the establishments in the Order in that quarter of the world. It was determined soon after to send an Embassy to the Pope, then ranking highest among the potentates of Christendom. For this purpose four young nobles were selected. This constituted the first Embassy sent from Japan to a Western Power, and was considered at the time an event of the greatest consequence. The second Embassy, now in the United States, is more numerous, and perhaps charged with more important duties; but in the sixteenth century, when trade with the East Indies was regarded as the broadest and easiest road to fortune, all that pertained to that part of the earth was looked upon with absorbing interest. The ambassadors were attended by two councillors of mature years—men who had attained distinction in learning and in the affairs of the outside world.

### ARRIVAL AT LISBON.

They sailed from Nagasaki February 20, 1582, accompanied by Father Valignani, on a Portuguese ship, and arrived at Lisbon on the 15th of March. The Emperor of Japan, who was then in the East, had heard of the arrival of the Embassy, and had ordered the Prince of Amida, who was then in the East, to accompany them. The Prince of Amida, who was then in the East, had heard of the arrival of the Embassy, and had ordered the Prince of Amida, who was then in the East, to accompany them.

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# THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.

## Meeting of Stockholders in Boston and Receipt of the Annual Report.

### The Receipts and Expenditure for the Past Year—Operations of the Land Department and General Financial Condition—The Pennsylvania "Railroad King" Gives Way to Vanderbilt in the Management—The New Board of Directors and Officers.

### THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PAST YEAR.

### Operations of the Land Department and General Financial Condition—The Pennsylvania "Railroad King" Gives Way to Vanderbilt in the Management—The New Board of Directors and Officers.